Help.

Situations Wanted.

Female Help.

Agents Wanted.

Boarding and Lodging.

Boots, Carriages, &c.

Business Chances.

Dancing.

Dentistry.

Dressmaking.

Financial.

For Exchange.

For Rent.

For Sale.

Lost and Found.

Machinery.

Marriages.

Medical.

Miscellaneous.

Musical.

Proposals.

Partnerships.

Personal.

Real Estate.

Rooms and Offices.

Special Notices.

To Let.

Wanted—To Rent.

The Chicago Tribune.

VOL. XXII. CHICAGO, FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 1869. NUMBER 189.

WASHINGTON.

Proceedings in Congress Yesterday.

Vote in the House on the Wells, Fargo & Co. Mail Contract.

Wells's Latest Trick Shown Up by Mr. Washburne.

The Ways and Means Committee and the Moorhead Tariff Bill.

General Porter's Account of Affairs in Arkansas.

Special Despatch to The Chicago Tribune.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 7.

THE MORTON BANKING BILL.

The Ways and Means Committee, at their meeting to-day, did nothing but talk about the Tariff bill. Mr. Morton's bank bill was returned, and it was to have it considered. The committee determined to adhere to the bill sent on the Senate, and to recommend the Sum of three millions be agreed to in committee will be reported to-morrow, and agreed to the bill will when it comes before the House. The tree from the House goes general Committee of the whole—say the first part of next week.

ORTMAN AFFAIRS.

State Department sent to the Senate to-day-in reply to a resolution of enquiry—all the correspondence relating to Ortman at Constantinople. The correspondence with the Minister to Turkey says when he presented the Congressional resolution of last session expressing sympathy with Crete, the Grand Vizier manifested a good deal of surprise at its and chairs—he was nothing. The Ottoman Government returns thanks for the symbathies the United States.

THE ALASKA BOUNDARY COMMITTEE

met several times to-day and examined Mr. Poinsett, a member of the Philadelphia Inquirer, testified that he had never received any money, had never given or let pass any, but had attended the treaty. The investigation will probably occupy at least another week.

THE IMPEACHMENT TRIAL.

Speakership of the Senate had a caucus meeting. There was a good deal of talk the Chief Justice, but no definite action was taken. Judicial conclusion seemed to be that not legislation is needed at this session, but was taken on bringing forward many

THE MISSISSIPPI CASE.

Reconstruction Committee at to-day's examined witnesses from Mississippi, but [illegible] Committee, [illegible] Mississippi, [illegible] Mississippi, [illegible] Mississippi

The Tribune.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 1871.

TERMS:

TRIBUNE COMPANY.

THE PUBLIC BUILDING SWINDLE.

Mr. Washburne will do the country a great service on Wednesday last, when he arraigned the monstrous abuses which have crept into the national expenditure. One of the most glaring of these is the public building business, which has grown into gigantic proportions, and which has for its head a Dignitary styled the "Supervising Architect of the Treasury." There is a law which provides that when a given amount is appropriated for a public building the plan shall be made to correspond with that sum. When Congress appropriates $250,000 for a building, the architect is required by law to prepare a plan, the cost of which shall be within the sum appropriated. Nevertheless the practice has been for the Treasury and architect of late years to violate it; and of late years the violation has been on a scale of the most magnificent proportions. In point of fact the Supervising Architect has added to his functions that of a Committee of Congressional appropriations, and by virtue of this self-constituted office he plans buildings and expands money thereon with the most reckless contempt for the law. He has virtually erected himself into a co-ordinate branch of the government. He admits, *pro forma*, that Congress alone has the right to appropriate the money, but if he does not claim, he exercises the right to practically enlarge the appropriations and compel Congress to vote them, under penalty of losing all that has been previously spent. Congress appropriated for the construction of public buildings (not including the public buildings at Washington) during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1869, the sum of $929,000. The "Supervising Architect" now notifies Congress that for this fiscal year he will want an additional sum of $665,000, and he gives further notice of his intention to expend during the year ending June 30, 1870, the sum of $2,524,000, making an aggregate sum of $3,958,000 to be expended upon public buildings in two years, in addition to the sums to be expended upon the public works at Washington.

The business genius, the supervising architect is not content with the mere disbursement of these millions for objects specified by law; his duty, or at least his practice, is to use the money thus appropriated upon buildings, the design, plan and cost of which are made out by himself and invariable. In substance, all the agency and control Congress exercises is to place so much money at the disposal of this personal architect, to be expended by him in his discretion for certain specified points. How the business is done can be illustrated by the case of the Marine Hospital near Chicago. There was a hospital here, which occupied a very valuable site. It was proposed to sell it for $100,000, and a new one ordered to be built for the special sum obtained by the sale of the old one, to-wit, $100,000, which was, in fact, amply sufficient. The Supervising Architect, however, had no such contracted ideas. He preferred to build an edifice of an different character which any layman would have predicted would cost from two to three times the amount appropriated. How much the building will cost, when completed according to the plans of the Supervising Architect, we do not know; the Architect himself does not know, if, indeed, he has ever given that point a thought. The $100,000 will not complete it, for we are supposing that expenditure of three times that sum will see it fit for occupancy. We notice in the "estimate" recently sent to Congress, that the architect asks for $30,000 more for this year, and $100,000 for the next year to come. When it will be completed we cannot say, nor how many additional estimates will be sent to Congress. We should like to see some census rendered for this glaring violation of law and waste of the public money. The Supervising Architect of the Treasury has been here two or three times looking after the job. He knows all about the cost of stone and mortar in these parts. He knew at the beginning that the work would be done for the sum appropriated. He knew that his plan involved two or three times the amount contemplated. *Why did he do it?* Will not some member of Congress put this question to the Secretary of the Treasury?

As in Chicago, so we suppose the case is everywhere. If the office of architect was intended to provide a means to expend public money recklessly and irresponsibly, it is a perfect success. We venture that $100,000 was never appropriated, to be expended during the fiscal year for a Court House and Post Office at Madison, Wisconsin, the Supervising Architect asks for $80,000 additional, to be expended during the year, and $150,000 for the next year. How much more that Madison Post Office is to cost dependeupon the plan of the architect.

Can Congress honestly defend an appropriation of two millions of dollars, to be expended according to such "plans" as these? Does not everybody know that at such a system must degenerate into corruption of the most disgusting kind, if it has not already reached that condition? We have no doubt that of the $3,958,000 to be appropriated and asked for these works, at least a cent-third will be wasted. We do not know whether the proper remedy is to abolish the office, or merely to dismiss the architect. But these operations are sometimes lost to dismay employes who have already got their diamond pins, watches, fast horses and furnished residences, and how far Congress may find a precedent in that policy applicable to their case, we cannot say. If this architect is a perfectly honest man he is grossly incompetent. We do not say that Congress can refuse to finish the buildings half way erected, but it has to the next session of Congress to appropriate a dollar for any new work, and prohibit the commencement of any work for which an appropriation has been made until the plan and estimate for the whole work shall have been approved by whatever under suitable bonds. Let not another dollar be voted in the dark. Let no officer be permitted to assume a discretion in commencing superstructures. There is no more just ground for permitting the abuses of this architect's office to continue a day longer than it can be reached by law.

REDEEMABLE'S REVEL.

Kentucky is to enjoy a sensation, Breckinridge is to return. The chivalry and beauty of Kentucky are anxiously and enthusiastically preparing to greet him. But Kentucky generally is not to be allowed to participate in the welcome. Colonel J. Stoddard Johnston, who was on Breckinridge's staff during the war, assists all Union men to take part in the grand event. He publishes, in advance, that "what we ask for General Breckinridge is not from his enemies, but his friends." Colonel Johnston's reminder is a sensible one. Why should any one who means, or ever meant, the success of a Union soldier, be permitted to welcome Breckinridge to Kentucky or to any part of the country? Tucker at Vice President, and Breckinridge at the head of the officers of the South upon his flag, to put on the garb of a traitor, and raised his arm against the Union which had done so much for him. Tennessee has deprived herself of money at the country—he has deprived himself of friends in America. Colonel J. Stoddard Johnston hits the nail of true propriety squarely on the head, when he announces that General Breckinridge, on the occasion of his return, will disagree with the sentiments of a great majority of those who welcome him, and with the sentiments of the friends of their country.

The occasion is a proper one, and we believe the occasion in which "northern opinion" does demand a disagreement. Colonel J. Stoddard Johnston is not alone. He is found to be echoed here during the way, and now only needs opposite position to be taken by the Democratic press to complete the unanimity. The following from the Louisville Courier-Journal is the tone of the Democratic press:

> "The Democrats who go to meet their chief at Lexington from Ohio, Indiana and Illinois to welcome him with a loyal ringing shout to him. Breckinridge are mostly influenced by Colonel Johnston, that this reception is to be private—to be postponed as those who can be recognized by General Breckinridge as his friends. Men with whom he would not associate normally must also keep away, and accordingly there will be no places at the "welcome home" for those who stood by their country in the war and were the enemies of Breckinridge.
>
> It may be that Breckinridge will also allegorize Buchanan Democrats. He may imitate Andrew Johnson and Horatio Seymour, and swing round the circle, giving an opportunity for the Democratic masses to greet him along the road. He might enter the country at Portland and thence, travelling south and west, take in Chicago. Extended from the home welcome, the Democracy should, and doubtless will, take immediate steps to secure a passing visit from their long exiled chief and leader.

SPECIE RESUMPTION.

Every scheme of specie resumption that has been proposed in Congress has one serious defect which the authors stay over and keep out of sight, for the reason, we presume, that they have not been able to devise a remedy for it—and that defect is the enormous destruction of the circulating medium. To resume involves the retiring of the Treasury notes. No specie redemption of those notes can result in any other way than that their payment and cancellation. Let Morton's, Sherman's, Morrell's, Garfield's or Greeley's plan of resumption be adopted, and from the moment the Treasury doors are opened for the redemption of the notes, they will flow back into the possession of the government and out of circulation, and neither of these plans provide any means for filling the vacuum then created.

The government, unlike a bank, does not loan money to merchants and manufacturers, thereon commercial paper, and take collateral security for the money it parts with. When it pays out cash, it does so to defray current expenses, in pursuance of lawful appropriations. A bank, on the other hand, loans money to traders and takes security therefor; and once every ninety days, on an average, the money thus loaned is paid back, with interest. A bank can therefore redeem all its notes, and pay them out again and again in a year, without loss, and with a profit on each transaction. But the government has no resource or income except from taxation. When it pays out money, not a dollar of it ever comes back, except as a tax collected upon the products, property and increase of the people, by the costly machinery of the revenue system.

No plan of specie resumption has been devised which will not subject the government to loss. A greenback worth seventy-two cents in gold can not be redeemed in specie at par without a loss of seventy-two cents upon the dollar. Gold to coin can only be procured from the small surplus of gold from customers, and by selling bonds for what they will bring in gold. The surplus gold from duties, after paying interest on the bonded debt, amounts only to $30,000,000 per annum, and would require *fifteen* years to redeem the legal tenders and three per cent certificates outstanding. Ten-forty bonds only sell for about seventy-five cents and two-year bonds for seventy-eight cents in gold. The proceeds of a thousand-dollar bond of the latter would only redeem $780 of greenbacks. If the government, after redeeming 100 millions of legal tenders, should pay them out again, it would be obliged to redeem them again at a further loss by selling bonds at a discount. Once redeemed they must, therefore, be cancelled and destroyed. They amount to $356,000,000, which there is no escape. The only reason the government is now able to pay out greenbacks without loss is, that it refuses to redeem them or give anything for them except to receive them for internal taxation. The moment it undertakes to pay coin it must cancel them as fast as redeemed to prevent them from coming back again and again to be redeemed, involving a loss to the Treasury on each occasion. Hence, specie redemption of greenbacks means final payment and cancellation.

This brings us back to the starting point, and raises the question: How can the Treasury notes be resisted at least cost and loss to the government, and without producing a contraction of the currency that might prove destructive to the business interests of the country?

A very simple, safe and efficient plan can be suggested, and if any one can name a better one we shall take pleasure in presenting it to the public. It is this: Let any existing National Bank or any private banker, or any company associating the requisite capital, wants may organize under the National Banking law, have the privilege to send to the Secretary of the Treasury legal tenders to the amount of $1,000 for every $1,000 of bonds it receive on deposit, and buy and sell exchange, all of which is foreign to the functions of a government, whose business is to provide laws and order, repel invasion, suppress insurrection, enforce the laws, protect every citizen in his rights and liberties, and in the events and the wants of their security.

For the performance of these services the people contribute by taxation to its support, and it has no other income or legitimate business.

The plan above described is blotted at by no other recommended by Commissioner Wells, in his recent report, as follows:

> "The Commissioner says no satisfactory plan has been suggested for the withdrawal of the United States notes except the payment of them in coin. He suggests that the present system of National Banking be changed so that the circulation of the National Banks, instead of being issued on the deposit of United States bonds, shall be issued on the deposit of the notes themselves whenever the private business of the country requires it. He suggests that the notes so deposited shall be held in the Treasury as a part of the reserve of the banks, and that the banks shall pay interest to the government on the amount of its circulation so deposited. He believes it is the experience of every country that a paper currency is necessary for the convenience of its people, and that the best currency is that which is issued by banks. He believes that the system he suggests would be the best method of providing a currency for the people, and that it would be the most economical method for the government to adopt. He believes that the system would be popular with

Miscellaneous Business.

...ing Co.—The following gentlemen have been elected Directors of the Chicago Hotel Company for the ensuing year: Messrs. Wm. Bross, Wm. Jones, Wm. Ogden, Wm. Bradley, Wm. Blair, Wm. Butler, Wm. Penn Nixon, Wm. Hamilton, Wm. Bross, Jr., Wm. Bross, 3d, Wm. Bross, 4th, Wm. Bross, 5th, Wm. Bross, 6th, Wm. Bross, 7th, Wm. Bross, 8th, Wm. Bross, 9th, Wm. Bross, 10th, Wm. Bross, 11th, Wm. Bross, 12th, Wm. Bross, 13th, Wm. Bross, 14th, Wm. Bross, 15th, Wm. Bross, 16th, Wm. Bross, 17th, Wm. Bross, 18th, Wm. Bross, 19th, Wm. Bross, 20th, Wm. Bross, 21st, Wm. Bross, 22nd, Wm. Bross, 23rd, Wm. Bross, 24th, Wm. Bross, 25th, Wm. Bross, 26th, Wm. Bross, 27th, Wm. Bross, 28th, Wm. Bross, 29th, Wm. Bross, 30th, Wm. Bross, 31st, Wm. Bross, 32nd, Wm. Bross, 33rd, Wm. Bross, 34th, Wm. Bross, 35th, Wm. Bross, 36th, Wm. Bross, 37th, Wm. Bross, 38th, Wm. Bross, 39th, Wm. Bross, 40th, Wm. Bross, 41st, Wm. Bross, 42nd, Wm. Bross, 43rd, Wm. Bross, 44th, Wm. Bross, 45th, Wm. Bross, 46th, Wm. Bross, 47th, Wm. Bross, 48th, Wm. Bross, 49th, Wm. Bross, 50th, Wm. Bross, 51st, Wm. Bross, 52nd, Wm. Bross, 53rd, Wm. Bross, 54th, Wm. Bross, 55th, Wm. Bross, 56th, Wm. Bross, 57th, Wm. Bross, 58th, Wm. Bross, 59th, Wm. Bross, 60th, Wm. Bross, 61st, Wm. Bross, 62nd, Wm. Bross, 63rd, Wm. Bross, 64th, Wm. Bross, 65th, Wm. Bross, 66th, Wm. Bross, 67th, Wm. Bross, 68th, Wm. Bross, 69th, Wm. Bross, 70th, Wm. Bross, 71st, Wm. Bross, 72nd, Wm. Bross, 73rd, Wm. Bross, 74th, Wm. Bross, 75th, Wm. Bross, 76th, Wm. Bross, 77th, Wm. Bross, 78th, Wm. Bross, 79th, Wm. Bross, 80th, Wm. Bross, 81st, Wm. Bross, 82nd, Wm. Bross, 83rd, Wm. Bross, 84th, Wm. Bross, 85th, Wm. Bross, 86th, Wm. Bross, 87th, Wm. Bross, 88th, Wm. Bross, 89th, Wm. Bross, 90th, Wm. Bross, 91st, Wm. Bross, 92nd, Wm. Bross, 93rd, Wm. Bross, 94th, Wm. Bross, 95th, Wm. Bross, 96th, Wm. Bross, 97th, Wm. Bross, 98th, Wm. Bross, 99th, Wm. Bross, 100th, Wm. Bross, 101st, Wm. Bross, 102nd, Wm. Bross, 103rd, Wm. Bross, 104th, Wm. Bross, 105th, Wm. Bross, 106th, Wm. Bross, 107th, Wm. Bross, 108th, Wm. Bross, 109th, Wm. Bross, 110th, Wm. Bross, 111th, Wm. Bross, 112th, Wm. Bross, 113th, Wm. Bross, 114th, Wm. Bross, 115th, Wm. Bross, 116th, Wm. Bross, 117th, Wm. Bross, 118th, Wm. Bross, 119th, Wm. Bross, 120th, Wm. Bross, 121st, Wm. Bross, 122nd, Wm. Bross, 123rd, Wm. Bross, 124th, Wm. Bross, 125th, Wm. Bross, 126th, Wm. Bross, 127th, Wm. Bross, 128th, Wm. Bross, 129th, Wm. Bross, 130th, Wm. Bross, 131st, Wm. Bross, 132nd, Wm. Bross, 133rd, Wm. Bross, 134th, Wm. Bross, 135th, Wm. Bross, 136th, Wm. Bross, 137th, Wm. Bross, 138th, Wm. Bross, 139th, Wm. Bross, 140th, Wm. Bross, 141st, Wm. Bross, 142nd, Wm. Bross, 143rd, Wm. Bross,

WASHINGTON.

Proceedings in Congress Yesterday.

Further Debate in the Senate on the Sioux Murphy Relief Bill.

Private Bill Day in the House.

Debate on the Jenckes Civil Service Bill.

Comprehensive Statement Showing the Financial Condition of the Government.

CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE.

HOUSE.

INDIANA.

OHIO.

BLOOMINGTON.

CUBA.

CANADA.

Lost, Found, &c.

Personal.

Real Estate Wanted.

Real Estate for Sale.

Information Wanted.

Boarding and Lodging.

To Rent—Rooms.

To Rent—Houses.

To Rent—Stores, Offices, &c.

Business Chances.

Agents Wanted.

Situations Wanted—Male.

Situations Wanted—Female.

Employment Agents.

Miscellaneous Wants.

Wants.

Partners Wanted.

Medical.

Dancing.

Lectures, Concerts, &c.

Auction Sales.

Amusements.

Business Notices.

Marriages.

Deaths.

Special Notices.

THE CITY IN BRIEF.

MARK TWAIN.

Lecture by Hon. H. C. Van Schaack before the Historical Society.